

OREGON CROP WEATHER



OREGON
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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Weather: Except for some slight precipitation in central Oregon, weather conditions were generally hot and dry across the State. Demand for irrigation continued to increase as a result. Temperatures were as many as 15 degrees above normal, with many stations breaking the 100 degree mark; The Dalles recorded a high of 106 degrees during the week. Dry conditions continued in the Willamette Valley, where seasonal precipitation is below normal and fire danger is rated as high. Lake County experienced several lightning-induced fires; scattered precipitation helped with controlling them. The rains that did occur put a temporary stop to some harvesting operations. Grants Pass recorded 224 growing degree days (base 50), highest for the week.

Field Crops: Small grain harvest was generally advancing nicely across the State. Third cutting of hay and alfalfa continued; slowed somewhat in Wasco County with past damp weather but overall no problems from rain. Mint harvest continued in the Upper Willamette Valley with above average yields reported; also underway in Union County. Grass seed harvest is winding down across the State. Straw being baled and removed from fields. Winter wheat harvest is winding down in north-central and northeastern Oregon. In Washington County, early flailed red clover for seed being harvested. Field activities for those finished with harvest included weed control in summer fallow fields.

Fruit and Nuts: Summer pear harvest was complete in most of the lower Hood River Valley orchards and began in the mid-valley orchards. Fruit growers in the upper valley prepared for harvest. Bartlett pear harvest continued in Jackson County. Early pear harvest began in Wasco County and was nearly ready in Clackamas County. Asian pears were ready in Washington County, where early apples and peaches were picked. Blueberries and blackberries continued to produce and hazelnuts and walnuts filled well.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: Nurseries continued with irrigating, feeding plants, repotting plants, and pot rotation. Christmas tree growers continued with tree shearing. Increased irrigation underway on nursery plantations. Easter lily growers now planting scales from bulbs. Growers continued preparing for the "Far West" nursery show, less than two weeks away.

Vegetables: Garlic and onion seed harvest was underway in Sherman County. Klamath County reported potatoes were 20 percent turned and 5 percent knocked down. Irrigation continued for some potatoes and onions. Zucchini and tomatoes were maturing rapidly in Washington County. Onions were sizing well. Harvest was in full swing in Josephine County for tomatoes, summer squash, eggplant, melons, peppers, snap beans, and potatoes.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Hot, dry conditions across the State continued to deteriorate pastures and rangeland. Dryland pastures, in some areas of western Oregon, were reported dormant and used up for the summer. Supplemental feeding continued throughout many of these areas. Although pastures in many areas of eastern Oregon were reported very dry, some rangeland in the northeastern portion of the State was reported in better than normal condition. Livestock were reported in good condition.

Crop Progress - Week Ending 8/15/04

	This week	Previous week	Last year	5 year average
Barley harvested (%)	70	52	84	63
Spring Wheat harvested (%)	70	49	83	68
Winter Wheat harvested (%)	83	64	91	85
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.8	6.2	—	—

Soil Moisture - Week Ending 8/15/04

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil (%)	12	56	32	—
Subsoil (%)	19	46	35	—

Crop Condition - Week Ending 8/15/04

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Winter Wheat (%)	—	6	26	54	14
Barley (%)	—	2	28	60	10
Range & Pasture (%)	1	13	45	35	6

WESTERN OREGON

CLACKAMAS: Winter wheat harvest is well advanced. Bartlett pears about ready to pick. Evergreen blackberry picking is advancing rapidly. Cultivation and hoeing of spring planted strawberries ongoing. Old canes being trimmed from raspberry and Marionberry fields. Green bean harvest moving rapidly. Sweet corn harvest well underway. Plenty of irrigation at nursery operations. Some transplanting and repotting. Livestock receiving supplemental feed, but are still in good condition. Dryland pastures have gone into the summer dormant state and will stay there until the fall rains.

COOS/CURRY: Blueberry harvest continued. Cranberry growers were focusing on irrigation; some growers were seeing signs of cranberry girdler damage. Easter lily growers were planting scales. Livestock mostly good. Mostly cloudy at Brookings-Harbor; more sun mixed with clouds at Bandon. Days since precipitation of 0.25 inches or more at Brookings-Harbor: 12 days; at Bandon: 67 days. Average air temperatures at coastal AgriMet weather stations ranged from 59.2 at Brookings-Harbor to 60.9 deg F at Bandon; highs ranged from 71.9 at Brookings-Harbor to 78.7 deg F at Bandon, and lows ranged from 52.4 at Bandon to 54.8 deg F at Brookings-Harbor. Precipitation ranged from 0.00 inches at Bandon to 0.00 inches at Brookings-Harbor. Growing degree days (base 50 deg F) ranged from 70 GDD at Brookings-Harbor to 80 GDD at Bandon.

JACKSON: Grain harvest almost finished; straw being baled. Third cutting of alfalfa underway. Fields are being prepared for fall crops where irrigation is available to moisten soil. Bartlett harvest underway. Irrigation of tree fruits continues. Tomato and sweet corn being harvested; cantaloupes beginning to ripen. Hot, dry weather preventing all but irrigated from growing.

JOSEPHINE: The harvest is truly on now. Corn, tomatoes, summer squash, eggplant, peaches, melons, berries (black and blue), peppers, beans, potatoes, etc. Very, very hot and dry. Explosive fire conditions with heat and wind. Above normal temperatures for the first weeks in August. Send humidity if you can't send rain, it would be greatly appreciated! If we have water we are using it. If we don't, we are hauling it in tanker trucks!

LANE/LINN/BENTON: Drought conditions exist; high fire danger in grass fields at this time. Mint crop harvest approaching the end with reports of above average yields.

MARION: Grass seed harvest winding down. Straw baling operations still in full swing but should also be getting close to finished as well. Sugarbeet seed harvest and field preparations for new plantings are both underway. Mint harvest continues. Farmers are harvesting snapbeans and sweet corn. A little wheat yet to combine. Very hot and dry. High temperatures and dry conditions continue to increase the demand for water on row crops.

WASHINGTON: Early flailed red clover being harvested for seed; later cut for silage or hay turning to full maturity and will be ready for combining soon. Field corn earing well. Most grass straw baled and removed from fields; some wheat straw being baled. Third cutting alfalfa mostly in barn. Blueberries and blackberries continue to produce. Hazelnuts and walnuts filling well. Asian pears ready. Early apples being picked; crab apples are abundant. Peach harvest continues with Veterans coming on. Sweet corn maturing. Roadside stands selling out. Onions sizing well. Tomatoes ripening rapidly. Zucchini hard to control; melons at farmers markets. Greenhouses and nurseries rotating large potted plants with maximum irrigation effort on nursery plantations. Pastures mostly dried up and feeding is required; cattle and calves doing well.

YAMHILL: Some hazelnut growers applied a second filbertworm control spray. Peach harvest continues. Early season apple harvest continues. Hot, hot, hot!

EASTERN OREGON

BAKER: Haying continues. Grain harvest beginning. Cattle doing well. Range better than normal for August.

HOOD RIVER: Summer pear harvest was completed in most lower Hood River Valley orchards and began in mid-valley orchards. Fruit growers in the upper valley prepared for harvest.

KLAMATH: Hot weather continues. Grain harvest also continues. Third cutting of hay continues to be dropped. Irrigation continues for some potatoes and onions. Third alfalfa cutting is underway, as is the grain hay harvest. Potatoes are 20 percent turning and 5 percent knocked down.

LAKE: Lake County has been extremely hot, with dry lightening storms causing a few small fires throughout the area. Small amounts of precipitation have helped with controlling the fires that occurred last weekend.

MALHEUR: The harvest of grains, onions, beans, and alfalfa is progressing nicely. To date, there has been very little rain on the third cutting of alfalfa. Irrigation water is still running in all systems.

SHERMAN: Showers last Thursday evening and Friday shut down harvest for three days, although some with home storage managed to cut some on Sunday. Many finished with harvest and are now back in the fallow fields doing weed control. Garlic and onion seed harvest underway. Market strategies heavily discussed and spouses confirming vacation plans before fairs, school and seeding.

UNION: Grass seed harvest winding down. Mint and wheat harvest underway. Hot and dry.

WALLOWA: Producers in the dryland areas began grain harvest preparations this past week. Some of the fall grain crops are showing a little stress but the spring crops are still looking good.

WASCO: Winter wheat harvest rapidly being completed; however, rain showers interrupted harvest several times. Third cutting of alfalfa hay slowed with damp weather. The annual Thrashing Bee at Dufur was a big event last weekend, demonstrating grain harvest by header cutting, binder cutting, stationary thrashing, steam engine power, horse teams, etc. Cattle are holding their own on the deteriorating pastures. Early pear harvest was active last week. Fire danger is critical all over Wasco County. Local 4-H farm kids were preparing livestock for the Tygh Valley County Fair next week.

WEATHER DATA FOR SELECTED STATIONS IN OREGON WEEK ENDING August 15, 2004 (as of 11:00 am)

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS BASE-50F		LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIPITATION			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
COASTAL AREAS													
Astoria/Clatsop	57	82	65	4	106	29	0.00	-0.27	0	61.62	-3.99	94	194
Crescent City	55	66	59	0	65	2	0.01	-0.20	1	53.47	-11.18	83	156
Florence	45	74	62	1	85	8	0.00	-0.28	0	70.55	-5.12	93	181
North Bend	54	70	61	2	81	9	0.01	-0.20	1	64.65	1.92	103	174
Tillamook	51	86	64	5	99	33	0.00	-0.35	0	84.12	-3.46	96	197
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Corvallis	52	100	74	9	172	58	0.00	-0.19	0	30.72	-11.48	73	132
Eugene	52	96	74	6	168	42	0.00	-0.22	0	38.00	-10.73	78	149
Hillsboro	55	99	74	9	173	61	0.00	-0.23	0	29.90	-7.07	81	156
McMinnville	54	99	75	9	176	57	0.00	-0.14	0	33.07	-9.66	77	153
Portland AP	60	99	77	8	187	54	0.00	-0.22	0	29.06	-6.60	81	152
Salem	54	99	74	8	173	54	0.00	-0.14	0	37.82	-0.89	98	158
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	57	102	82	10	224	70	0.00	-0.09	0	28.12	-2.59	92	115
Medford	63	103	83	10	230	69	0.00	-0.13	0	19.10	0.55	103	112
Roseburg AP	56	99	77	8	191	52	0.00	-0.14	0	33.00	0.65	102	138
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	52	95	73	7	162	50	0.00	-0.14	0	17.06	3.40	125	97
Heppner	54	99	76	7	184	46	0.00	-0.14	0	14.16	0.64	105	135
Hermiston AP	48	103	77	5	189	31	0.00	-0.07	0	10.74	2.02	123	92
John Day	54	99	76	8	182	53	0.00	-0.21	0	12.05	-0.78	94	114
Moro	52	100	79	11	202	76	0.10	0.02	1	12.35	1.53	114	95
Pendleton AP	56	104	80	8	213	54	0.00	-0.14	0	14.19	2.47	121	106
The Dalles	56	106	81	15	222	103	0.00	-0.11	0	13.98	1.77	114	103
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Bend	44	96	71	9	151	56	0.00	-0.14	0	13.17	1.77	116	83
Burns AP	46	98	73	8	163	58	0.00	-0.14	0	8.74	-0.88	91	89
Klamath Falls	49	93	71	5	150	29	0.00	-0.14	0	12.56	-0.64	95	97
Lakeview	43	93	70	5	143	33	0.00	-0.14	0	8.87	-6.45	58	63
Redmond	44	100	74	9	172	61	0.00	-0.14	0	9.61	1.33	116	85
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	42	95	70	4	143	26	0.00	-0.21	0	8.14	-2.25	78	100
Joseph	46	94	71	10	148	71	0.00	-0.25	0	17.79	-6.46	73	133
La Grande AP	45	97	73	4	164	27	0.00	-0.21	0	13.02	-3.96	77	102
Union	46	98	72	6	157	38	0.00	-0.21	0	15.43	2.16	116	131
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	51	100	78	4	197	24	0.00	-0.07	0	8.62	-0.78	92	74
Rome	49	101	78	9	200	56	0.00	-0.10	0	7.12	-0.86	89	78

Summary based on National Weather Service data.
Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Monday, September 1, 2003.
DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.
Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.
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